

communicating means for performing the group communication in the group on the basis of the group identification information assigned by said assigning means,

wherein a communication apparatus assigned the group identification information by said assigning means performs the group communication by said communicating means with adding the assigned group identification information to communication data.

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~~55.~~ (New) A communication apparatus which performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to a communication system having a plurality of communication apparatuses, comprising:

requesting means for requesting group communication in a group by forming the group of a part of communication apparatuses in said communication system;

storage means for receiving group identification information assigned by other communication apparatuses in response to a request of group communication by said requesting means, and storing the group identification information; and

communicating means for performing the group communication by transmitting communication data along with the group identification information stored in said storage means.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 17, 19 to 27, 40, and 53 to 55 are in the application, with Claims 1, 14, 27 and 40 having been amended, with Claims 5, 18, 28 to 39 and 41 to 52

having been cancelled, and with Claims 54 and 55 having been added herein. Claims 1, 14, 27, 40 and 53 to 55 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 53 is allowed and that Claims 2, 4, 6, 11 to 13, 15, 17, 19, 24 to 26, 28, 30, 32, 37 to 39, 41, 43, 45 and 50 to 52 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 14 should also have been indicated as being allowed, because they contain substantially similar features as allowed Claim 53.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 14, 16, 18, 20, 27, 29, 31, 33, 40, 42, 44 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,835,860 (Diachina); and Claims 8 to 10, 21 to 23, 34 to 46 and 47 to 49 were rejected under § 103(a) over Diachina in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,850,036 (Smith). Favorable consideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication system which has a plurality of communication apparatuses and performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to the communication system. The system includes requesting means for requesting group communication in a group by forming the group of a part of communication apparatuses in the communication system, assigning means for assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to the request, and communicating means for performing the group communication in the group on the basis of the group

identification information assigned by the assigning means, wherein the assigning means assigns the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

The applied art, namely Diachina and Smith, is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 1. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest assigning means for assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to a request, wherein the assigning means assigns the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

In this manner, the present invention of amended independent Claim 1 assigns the group identification information at the time of formation of the group. (Specification, page 10, line 26 to page 11, line 9). A unique group identification information is thus assigned to a group at the time of formation of that group. Accordingly, an identification value can be dynamically assigned to an arbitrary number of communication apparatuses (radios).

Diachina is seen to be directed to administration of mobile station user groups in a wireless communication system in which a user group of mobile stations is assigned with a preregistered user group identification. (Diachina, abstract; Figure 5; and column 4, lines 2 to 15).

Diachina is only seen to use a preregistered user group identification for a preregistered user group, but is not seen to disclose or suggest assigning a new user group identification to a group of communication apparatuses whenever the group is formed. (Diachina, column 5, lines 22 to 46). Accordingly, the operation disclosed in Diachina is only seen to support a request from a mobile station to a mobile switching center to be

included in a specific user group which has been preregistered with a specific user group I.D. If the MSC approves the request, the mobile station is then allowed to use the preregistered user group I.D. for communication. (Diachina, column 5, lines 23 to 46). However, Diachina is not seen to dynamically assign a user group I.D. to a group of communication apparatuses each time such a group is formed.

Smith is not seen to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Diachina in this regard. In particular, Smith is directed to a frequency hopping radio communication system for supporting communications between a control unit and a plurality of slave stations. (Smith, abstract). Smith is not seen anywhere to be concerned with the formation of groups of communication apparatuses and the assignment of group identifications to each group at the time of group formation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Diachina and Smith, either alone or in combination (for which no motivation or suggestion is seen), are not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of amended independent Claim 1. In addition, amended independent Claims 14, 27 and 40 are directed to a communication apparatus and methods, respectively, which have substantially the same features as amended independent Claim 1 and are therefore believed to also be in condition for allowance for the same reasons discussed above with respect to amended independent Claim 1.

Newly-added Claims 54 and 55 contain substantially similar features as amended independent Claim 1, with the exception that communication among the group of communication apparatuses is performed by transmitting communication data along with the assigned group identification information. As such, newly-added Claims 54 and 55 are also believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

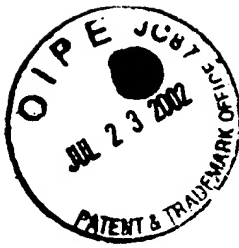
Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A communication system which has a plurality of communication apparatuses and performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to said communication system, comprising:

requesting means for requesting group communication in a group by forming the group of a part [an arbitrary number] of communication apparatuses in said communication system;

assigning means for assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to the request; and

communicating means for performing the group communication in the group on the basis of the group identification information assigned by said assigning means,

wherein said assigning means assigns the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

14. (Amended) A communication apparatus which performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to a communication system having a plurality of communication apparatuses, comprising:

requesting means for requesting group communication in a group by forming the group of a part [an arbitrary number] of communication apparatuses in said communication system;

assigning means for assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to the request; and

communicating means for performing the group communication in the group on the basis of the group identification information assigned by said assigning means,

wherein said assigning means assigns the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

27. (Amended) A method of controlling a communication system which has a plurality of communication apparatuses and performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to said communication system, comprising the steps [step] of:

requesting group communication in a group by forming the group of a part [an arbitrary number] of communication apparatuses in said communication system;

assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to the request; and

performing the group communication in the group on the basis of the group identification information assigned in the assignment step,

wherein the assignment step comprises assigning the group identification information whenever the group is formed.

40. (Amended) A method of controlling a communication apparatus which performs communication on the basis of system identification information assigned to a communication system having a plurality of communication apparatuses, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting group communication in a group by forming the group of a part [an arbitrary number] of communication apparatuses in said communication system;

assigning group identification information to manage the group communication in response to the request; and

performing the group communication in the group on the basis of the group identification information assigned in the assignment step,

wherein the assignment step comprises assigning the group identification information whenever the group is formed.